GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2379
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2004
DARJEELING AS AN AGRI EXPORT ZONE
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of West Bengal for declaring Darjeeling tea-growing area as an agri-export zone;

(b) whether the Government has accepted this proposal and declared the Darjeeling tea-growing area as an agri export zone;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) will the benefits be provided to tea producers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a): A proposal made by the Darjeeling Planters` Association and recommended by the Tea Board has been received by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for declaring the Darjeeling tea-growing areas as an Agri Export Zone (AEZ).

(b): The proposal is under consideration.

(c): The proposal is for setting up of an Agri Export Zone covering the hilly tea growing areas of Darjeeling district.

(d): Any benefits to tea producers would accrue within the framework of existing schemes of the State and Central Governments if the proposed AEZ is approved.